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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Atty. Dkt.: 1035-492

Date: January 27, 2004

Sir:

Attached for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor: DAIROKU et al

Entitled: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING WATER-ABSORBING SHAPED BODY

and including attachments as noted below:

- Newly executed Declaration,  Copy of Declaration from prior application,  Abstract  
 Please delete the following inventors in the continuation/division/continuation-in-part application:

**Deleted persons:**

44 pages of specification and claims (including 15 numbered claims), and  
 0 sheets of accompanying drawing/s.

Record the attached assignment to NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD., Osaka-shi, Osaka, Japan and return to the undersigned.

Attached is a Power of Attorney.

Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based on the following foreign applications:

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Day/Month/Year Filed</b>
2003-17125	Japan	27 January 2003

, respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application..

Certified copy(ies) of foreign application(s) is/are attached.

Certified copy(ies) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ in prior appln. no. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

This application is a  continuation/ division/ continuation-in-part of Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

Petition filed in prior application to extend its life to insure co-pendency.

The prior application is assigned to \_\_\_\_\_.

It is hereby requested that the Examiner consider the art cited in the parent application by applicant and/or the Examiner for the reasons stated therein. A listing of that art is attached.

Applicant claims "small entity" status.  "Small entity" statement attached.

Please enter the attached preliminary amendment prior to calculation of filing fee:

Also attached:  Information Disclosure Statement;  Non-Publication Request;  Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission;  Statement deleting Inventor(s) named in prior application;  Other:

**FILING FEE IS BASED ON CLAIMS AS FILED LESS ANY HEREWITH CANCELED**

Basic Filing Fee		\$ 770.00
Total effective claims 15 - 20 (at least 20) = 0	x \$ 18.00	\$ 0.00
Independent claims 2 - 3 (at least 3) = 0	x \$ 86.00	\$ 0.00
If any proper multiple dependent claims now added for first time, add \$290.00 (ignore improper)		\$ 0.00
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ 770.00
If "small entity," then enter half (1/2) of subtotal and subtract		-\$( 0.00)
	<b>SECOND SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ 770.00
Assignment Recording Fee (\$40.00)		\$ 40.00
	<b>TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED</b>	\$ 810.00

Any future submission requiring an extension of time is hereby stated to include a petition for such time extension.

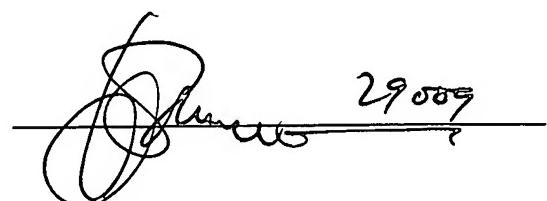
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Correspondence Address:

**Customer Number:****23117****NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By Atty: Arthur R. Crawford, Reg. No. 25,327

Signature:



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ARC:lsh

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